

S.D. State Unveils Mural To Honor Chicano Crusade

By RICHARD R. BARNES

A three-panel mural depicting the past, present and future of the Chicano movement was dedicated yesterday in San Diego State's Aztec Center, where the work was painted and is now displayed.

The mural, done in hues of yellow, orange, red, dark blue and black, is 20 feet high, and each panel is about 12 feet wide. It covers one wall of the lobby of Montezuma Hall, the center's largest room.

ORDERED BY SCHOOL

The artist, muralist Gilberto Ramirez of Mexico City, and his assistant painters, Guillermo Aranda and Ruben DeAnda, both San Diego Chicano artists, were honored at the dedication.

One hundred persons attended the ceremonies and were served Mexican pastries and chocolate.

Work on the mural, which was commissioned by San Diego State, began a month and a half

ago, Aranda said. Ramirez worked 12 hours a day on it and his assistants devoted much of their spare time.

A 1962 graduate of the University of Fine Arts in Mexico City, Ramirez was told of the rise of Chicano consciousness by a group of local Chicano artists who traveled to Mexico City to meet him.

The first panel of the mural, Aranda said, shows the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards, and the almost complete destruction of the native Mexican culture.

The second panel reflects the world today, he said, with man trapped in a mechanized society, rather than a society oriented toward the arts and crafts.

This scene also depicts how Mexico and the Chicano movement are separated by the border, yet joined by the common roots of their art.

The last panel looks to the future, Aranda said, where all

people will come together and give birth to a new race.

Ramirez is to return soon to Mexico City for a showing of his work, Aranda said.

Aranda, who is chairman of Toltecas de Aztlan, a group of local Chicano artists, outlined the group's plans to establish a Chicano cultural center in Balboa Park.

TO OCCUPY BUILDING

This week, he said, the group will begin moving into the Ford Building in the park, where it will organize efforts to seek art equipment and supplies for classes and workshops for young people.

The Ford Building will house the group for six months, he said, until a structure called the North Tank, on Park Avenue opposite the Naval Hospital, will be ready for occupancy.

Toltecas has a three-month lease on that facility, he said, and instruction in all phases of art will be offered there.



Standing in front of Chicano mural in San Diego State's Aztec Center are the artist, Gilberto Ramirez, center,

of Mexico City, with assistant painters Guillermo Aranda, left, and Ruben DeAnda. Dedication was yesterday.

The San Diego Union

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1970

—Staff Photo by Fred Gates